

FALSE MEMORY AND REPRESSION

- **List Learning Paradigm**

- Deese (1959)
- Roediger & McDermott (1995)

- **Interest In False Memories**

- Dates back to William James (1890)
- Theme of this work = Memory as reconstruction rather than reproduction.

EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FOR THE CREATION OF FALSE MEMORIES

Loftus & Palmer -- Misinformation Effect

- **Methodology**

- **Conclusions/Findings:**

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ORIGINAL MEMORY FOR THE EVENT POSTEVENT INFORMATION & SUGGESTIBILITY

- Alteration Position:
- Coexistence Position:
- Gap Filling Strategy:
- Retrieval difficulties as a result of source monitoring:
- Source Monitoring Errors:

LOFTUS & PALMER -- MISINFORMATION EFFECT

- Criticisms

Observer vs. Participant: Goodman & Tobey (1992)

- 2 conditions of interest: 4 year olds
 - **participant:** spent approximately **13** minutes playing with the baby-sitter.
 - **observer:** spent approximately **12** minutes looking at the screen as the film of the interaction played
- Results: interviewed after an 11-day delay.
 - **Participation**
 - **Observers**

Observer vs. Participant

- **Stress and Expertise** (Stanny & Johnson, 2000, pp. 236-237) confounds the participant-observer variable with the expertise.

Longevity and/or Strength of False Memories

- **Jean Piaget's (1962)** earliest memories at age 2

EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FOR CREATION OF FALSE MEMORIES FOR AN ENTIRE EVENT

- Ceci, Huffman (Crotteau), Smith, & Loftus, 1994: Mouse Trap Study
- Loftus & Pickrell, Loftus & Coan, or Loftus & Ketcham (1994): shopping mall experiment
- Pezdek, 1995: enema experiment
- Hyman & Pentland (1996): punchbowl wedding study
- Mazzoni, Loftus, Kirsch (2001): possessed by demons study

Shopping Mall & Enema Experiment (Pezdek, 1995b)

- Pilot results of actual memories that people have of these 2 events:
- Results: False memories of these 2 events

Hyman & Pentland (1996)

- Some background:
 - Researchers have found a significant correlation ($r = .36$) between _____measure of imagery vividness and hypnotizability) and _____
 - **Guided mental imagery**
 - **Imagination Inflation**

Hyman & Pentland (1996): Procedure

- Parents provided events that their son or daughter had experienced before the **age of 6 years**.
- Three memory interviews scheduled one day apart:

- Results:

Mazzoni, Loftus, & Kirsch (2001)

- **Implausible Event**: seeing someone possessed by demons.
- **Procedure used to increase plausibility**:

Mazzoni et al. (2001): 3-stage Process By Which FMs Emerge

- 1st stage:
- 2nd stage:
- 3rd stage:

Memory Distortion in People Reporting Abduction by Aliens

- Clancy, McNally, Schacter, Lenzenweger, & Pitman (2002).
- **Method**:
 - 3 groups of people:
 - Reported recovered memories of alien abduction
 - People who believe they were abducted, but have no memories.
 - People who deny having been abducted by aliens.
 - DRM paradigm

Memory Distortion in People Reporting Abduction by Aliens

- **The Modal Abductee:**

- **Sleep paralysis:**

- full-body paralysis

- hallucinations:

- **Results:**

REPRESSION

Does Exist Repression?

- During the 1980s and 1990s, a large number of high profile cases of adults claiming that they had recovered memories of sexual and/or satanic ritual abuse they had repressed during childhood. More than 800 lawsuits were reported by January 1996?
- “At the root of these claims is the belief that memory is always accurate, and that memories can be repressed--that one can bury traumatic experience in some crypt of the brain, forget it consciously, and then recover it in pristine form years or decades later.” (Neimark, 1996)
- “This two-pronged view of memory, imported (and distorted) from Freud into the popular culture, has been embraced by a whole sector of America, from therapists to police detectives to the tens of thousands of adult women who read *The Courage To Heal*, often dubbed the **bible of the recovered memory movement.**” (Neimark, 1996)

RECOVERED MEMORY THERAPY

- **The Courage to Heal (Bass & Davis, 1988)**

- **Memory Recovery Techniques:**

- Hypnosis
- Age Regression
- Guided Imagery
- Journaling
- Body Memories

Davis, Loftus, & Folette (2001)

- Commentary: How, when, & whether to use informed consent for recovered memory therapy.
- The risk of developing false memories (FMs):
 - Confirmation Bias
 - Leading questions
 - Power of Belief
 - Hindsight bias
 - False confessions

- **Dangers of Memory Recovery Techniques**

- Is informed consent the solution?

PROBLEMS WITH RESEARCH ON REPRESSION

- **Before you can prove repression has occurred you must:**

- Be able to verify that
- Demonstrate that the memory was truly repressed.

- **Recommendations for solving these problems:**

- Identify individuals on the _____ of trauma and then question them to determine whether they _____.

**Quotes About Elizabeth Loftus
Proponents Of Repression Who Coined The Nonscientific Label:
False Memory Syndrome**

You are only responsible for the gist of these quotes: don't write them all down.

- The therapist that you will see in the video view Loftus as the Leader of the False Memory Movement.

Video of Supporters of The Existence Of Repression

- Note: to date there is no reliable or valid research indicating the repression does exist.
- Of course we may lack the methods to study repression appropriately.